

National Estuary Program in EPA Region 9

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Background

- * The National Estuary Program was established 30 years ago. Today there are 28 individual National Estuary Programs (NEPs) around the country, with 3 in region 9.
- * Each NEP has a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) which identifies locally-prioritized actions for protecting and restoring water quality and habitat. Each NEP has a broad base of participants and supporters from public and private stakeholders.
- * Each NEP has received \$400 K to \$600 K in EPA grant funds each year to implement their CCMPs. A key success of EPA's funding of NEPs has been that since 2003, nationally, \$290 million in Federal CWA Section 320 funds have leveraged a total of \$5.56 billion in non-Federal funds: that is a ratio of nearly 1:20.
- * <https://www.epa.gov/nep/overview-national-estuary-program>

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

- * <http://www.sfestuary.org/>
- * The SFEP Study Area includes the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento- San Joaquin Rivers Delta encompassing almost 60,000 square miles and draining nearly 40 percent of California, making it one the largest of EPA's 28 national estuary programs.
- * The 2015 State of the Estuary Report highlighted that based on current monitoring and indicators that the upper Estuary (Suisun Bay and the Delta) is in fair to poor condition and getting worse, while the lower Estuary (San Francisco Bay) is in better health but jeopardized by climate change effects, such as sea level rise.
- * SFEP updated its CCMP over 3 years with the help of over 70 stakeholders and partners, finalizing and dubbing it the Estuary Blueprint in 2016. The Estuary Blueprint includes 32 actions to be carried out over the next 5 years and a timeline to track progress for all actions

Morro Bay National Estuary Program

- * <http://www.mbnep.org/>
- * The MB NEP Study Area includes Morro Bay and its approximately 70 square mile watershed.
- * Key issues include controlling erosion to improve water quality, maintaining healthy eel grass beds, and restoring a key riparian reserve on Chorro Creek.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

- * <http://www.santamonica-bay.org/>
- * The Santa Monica Bay study area covers over 400 square miles of coastal watershed, running from Malibu Creek watershed in the north down to Palos Verdes in the south. The landscape includes urban landscape and fire-prone coastal scrub hillsides and off-shore habitat includes valuable kelp forests.
- * Key topics include the protection and restoration of the local kelp forests, restoration of the Ballona Wetlands, and building beach resilience to rising sea levels through dune restoration.

Discussion Questions and Topics

- Will the CWA Section 320 competitive grant program in development draw its funds from 320 base funding?
- Why does amount of wetland acreage protected under NEPs fluctuate from year to year?